Nominating local M.Ps as Chairman of DRDA

871. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to nominate local Member of Parliament as Chairman of respective District Rural Development Agency (DRDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Members of Parliament nominated so far as Chairmen of such Committee in each State;

(d) the time by when the rest of the MPs are likely to be nominated as Chairmen of such Committee; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) The matter regarding appointment of Members of Parliament as Chairpersons of District Rural Development Agencies is under consideration.

Villages in Rajasthan bereft of potable water

872. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan which till date are bereft of any potable water;

(b) the villages identified on priority basis in consultation with State Government where potable water will be provided in near future; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Water supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural areas are implemented by the State Governments. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. As per information furnished by the Government of Rajasthan, out of 93946 rural habitations in the State, 82555 are fully covered, 5617 are partially covered and 5774 habitations are not covered with the facility of drinking water. It is proposed to cover all rural habitations in the country with the facility of drinking water by April 2004, subject to availability of funds.